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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Applicant: Bell) Art Unit: 3621
Serial No.: 09/448,253) Examiner: Sherr
Filed: November 24, 1999) AM9-99-0122
For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTHORIZED) October 25, 2002
COMPRESSION OF DIGITIZED MUSIC) 750 B STREET, Suite 3120
) San Diego, CA 92101
)

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 10, 2002, CANCEL CLAIMS 9-12 WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

The following remarks are submitted. All pending claims have been rejected as being unpatentable over Ryan in view of Pham et al.

All still-pending independent claims require permitting either recording or compression, or both, of data such as music only if a digital signature associated with the music matches an authorized signature. Nowhere does Ryan even mention the words "compress" or "compression" or address these concepts, much less does Ryan contemplate preventing compression if signatures do not match.

Nonetheless, evidently with primary respect to "recording", the examiner has alleged that Ryan, col. 2, line 15 through col. 4, line 22 teaches "permitting at least one of compression of the music, and recording

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